

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 497

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 0817

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNHRC

SUBJECT: 34TH SESSION OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

REF: STATE 22442

1. MORNING OF JANUARY 31 EMBOFF CALLED ON MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FILIZ DINC MEN TO DISCUSS THE UPCOMING 34TH SESSION OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. USING TALKING POINTS PROVIDED REFTEL, EMBOFF REVIEWED THE ISSUES AND GOALS THE US PLANS TO PURSUE DURING THE FIVE-WEEK MEETING IN GENEVA. DINC MEN LISTENED CAREFULLY AND TOOK NOTE OF US VIEWS. HER ONLY COMMENTS CONCERNED THE PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF A HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (HCHR) AND THE US REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR AMBASSADOR CARTER'S REELECTION.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE HCHR, DINC MEN NOTED THAT TURKEY HAD ABSTAINED ON THE CUBAN MOTION WHICH HAD TRANSFERRED CONSIDERATION FROM THE UNGA TO THE 34TH SESSION OF THE HRC. SHE EXPLAINED THAT THE REASON FOR TURKEY'S ABSTENTION WAS THAT GOT BELIEVED THE ISSUE OF CREATION OF THE HCHR HAD
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IN ITSELF BECOME SO CONTENTIOUS AND DIVISIVE THAT REGARDLESS OF THE OBJECTIVE MERITS OF CREATING SUCH A POSITION, IT COULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE IN PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS. DINC MEN SIAD TURKEY'S POSITION IN GENEVA WOULD, OF COURSE, DEPEND ON HOW THE ISSUE EVOLVED, BUT IT WAS APPARENT THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF A NEAR CONSENSUS, THE GOT WILL BE RELUCTANT TO SUPPORT CREATION OF AN HCHR.

3. CONCERNING THE REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR REELECTION OF AMBASSADOR CARTER, DINCMEN NOTED THAT THE GOT HAD PREVIOUSLY APPROACHED US SEEKING SUPPORT FOR A TURKISH CANDIDATE, HUCRI FISEK. SHE SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH THE US AND TURKISH CANDIDATES ARE ESSENTIALLY IN COMPETITION, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE TWO DELEGATIONS TO WORK OUT AN ACCOMMODATION IN GENEVA.

4. DINCMEN SAID THE PRIMARY GOAL OF THE GOT AT GENEVA WILL BE TO AVOID DEBATE ON CYPRUS MISSING PERSONS. EMBOFF AGREED SUCH A DEBATE WOULD BE UNPRODUCTIVE BUT SPECULATED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO AVOID IF MORE PROGRESS WERE NOT MADE TOWARD THE CREATION OF A MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE.

5. DINCMEN SAID THE TURKISH DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY AMBASSADOR YAVUZALP AND WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED BY A TURKISH OFFICER FROM NEW YORK WHO DEALS IN THRID COMMITTEE MATTERS, UNAL MARASLI. SHE SAID IT WAS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT SHE MIGHT BE ATTENDING. SHE PORMISED THAT THE DELEGATION WOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO SATY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR MEZVINSKY AND HIS DELEGATION AND WOULD COOPERATE ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.
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